In both England and France, the under-18 pregnancy rate has declined, according to information received from UNAIDS.

(b) The Goverment conducts the Adolescence Education Programme to build life skills of school going children/youth to delay the onset of sexual activity.

The Government does not supply condoms to minor children. These condoms are distributed among high risk population and HIV positive persons to prevent further spread of AIDS. Condoms as a birth control measure is provided among married couples.

(c) The quesion does not arise.

Health Research Commission

3270. DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a Health Research Commission on the lines of the Space and Atomic Energy Commission as an apex body to define policies related to health research including long term vision and missions, budgetary support and policies related to public-private partnership and international cooperation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) At present there is no proposal to set up a Health Research Commission. However, the Government has envisaged to set up a new Department to oversee the health research activities in the country.

Anaemia in married women

3271. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the deteriorating public health in the country over the past seven years, and around 56.2 per cent married women are anaemic;

(b) if so, what are all the ameliorative steps taken by Government to solve this problem; and

(c) the details of financial allocation for this specific purpose in the current year, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to National Family Health Survey-II (1998-99) (NFHS-II) & (NFHS-III), (2005-06), the prevalence of anaemia amongst ever married women (15—49 yrs) was 51.8% and 56.1% respectively.

(b) Government has initiated several measures including launching of National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), to improve the health and nutritional status amongst the people. The various measures are given in Statement. (*See* below).

(c) During 2007-08, Rs. 25.00 crore has been allocated for National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme to be utilized for IEC, quality control of iodised salt, establishment of State IDD Cell and IDD Laboratories, etc. Actual releases to the States/UTs are dependent on their capacity to utilize fund released for the purpose.

In addition, funding for the purpose is also included in the flexi pool funding for RCH-II of NRHM.

Statement

Measures to improve the nutritional status including Anaemia

Government has initiated various measures to improve the nutritional status including anaemia in the population. The measures are:

1. The Government of India has launched the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) in order to improve the availability of and access to quality health care. Under this Mission, the Reproductive and Child Health Programme (RCH-II) for Anaemia Control, provides iron and folic acid (IFA) tablets to all pregnant and lactating women and pre-school children.

The other important interventions under NRHM include Janani Suraksha Yojana wherein cash incentives are provided for delivering a child at the health institution. A village link worker namely Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) who will orient the community on the importance of Nutrition and shall be provider of IFA tablets besides orienting the community on other health related issues.

2. Supplementary feeding through programmes like Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme. Children in the age group 0-6 yrs receive supplementary nutrition, immunization, pre-school education etc. Supplementary food to pregnant women/nursing mothers to the extent of 500 Calories and 20-25g protein per day is also provided along with nutrition and health education. One of the recent steps to increase the effectiveness of services under ICDS is the provision of 50% of Recommended Dietary Allowances (RDA) of micronutrients through supplementary food.

Supplementary food is also provided through National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education (Mid-day Meal programme) to school going children.

3. A National Nutrition Policy was adopted in 1993 and the National Plan Action on nutrition is being implemented through various departments of Government of India. Now a National Nutrition Mission has been set up to deal with all nutritional problems through a Mission mode approach.

4. Nutrition Education to increase the awareness and bring about desired changes in the dietary practices including the promotion of breast feeding and dietary diversification.

5. Programmes for prevention of Specific Micronutrient Deficiency disorders other than iron deficiency.

(i) Prophylaxis Programme to prevent Nutritional Blindness due to Vitamin A deficiency. This is also under the RCH programme.

(ii) National Iodine Deficiency disease Control Programme (NIDDCP)

(iii) Pilot Programme for control of Micronutrient Deficiencies.

Medical check up of students

3272. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme under which medical check up of udents studying in Municipal and Panchayati Raj Institutions can be ne twice in a year; and

(b) if not, whether there is any proposal for medical check up of students hat preventive actions can be taken to improve health of weaker ons?